In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently amended.)   A network interface unit for communicating data
2 packets over a at least one non-secure network between client devices on a at least one
3 local area network (LAN) and an access node for a secure virtual private network (VPN)
4 comprising
5   means for directly connecting to said at least one LAN,
6   means for connecting to said at least one non-secure network,
7   means for authenticating at least one of said client devices seeking to access said
8 VPN, thereby establishing at least one authenticated client device,
9   a configuration server for sending configuration information to said at least one
10 authenticated client device,
11   a GUI server for presenting at least one menu to at least selected authenticated
12 client devices,
13   means for receiving at least a first message reflecting selections from said at least
14 one menu, and
15   means for accessing said at least one non-secure network using information in
16 said at least a first message, and
17   a security server for establishing a secure connection over said non-secure
18 network between said LAN and said access node.

1 2. (Original)   The network interface unit of claim 1 wherein said configuration
2 server comprises
3   a memory for storing configuration information for at least one client device, and
4   means for retrieving configuration information for at least selected ones of said
5 client devices from said memory upon subsequent authentication of said at least one
6 client device.

1   3. (Original)   The network interface unit of claim 2 wherein said configuration

2   information for each authenticated client device comprises information received on

3   behalf of each of said client devices upon an initial authenticating of respective ones of

4   said client devices.

1   4. (Original)   The network interface unit of claim 3 wherein at least one of said

2   client devices is a computer, and wherein said information received on behalf of a client

3   device is received from one of said computers.

1   5. (Original)   The network interface unit of claim 4 wherein said information

2   received on behalf of a first computer is received from said first computer.

1   6. (Currently amended.)   The network interface unit of claim 1 wherein said

2   configuration information for each authenticated client comprises information related to

3   connections to said at least one non-secure network.

1   7. (Currently amended.)   The network interface unit of claim 6 wherein said

2   information related to a connections to said at least one non-secure network comprises

3   information relating to at least one dial-up connection.

1   8. (Original)   The network interface unit of claim 7 wherein said information

2   related to at least one dial-up connection comprises information relating to at least one

3   customized dial-up connection, said information relating to each of said customized dial-

4   up connections comprising a customized dial-up string of characters to control a dial-up

5   modem connection to said non-secure network.

1   9. (Currently amended.)   The network interface unit of claim 6 wherein said

2   information related to connections to said at least one non-secure network comprises

3   information relating to at least one connection having a fixed IP address.

1   10. (Currently amended.)   The network interface unit of claim 6 wherein said

2   information related to connections to said at least one non-secure network comprises

3   information relating to at least one connection having a temporary IP address.

1   11. (Original) The network interface unit of claim 10 further comprising a DHCP

2   server for providing said temporary IP address.

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1   12. (Currently amended.)   The network interface unit of claim 10 further

2   comprising a DHCP client for obtaining a temporary IP address from said <u>at least one</u>

3   non-secure network and providing said temporary IP address for use in said connection.

1   13. (Currently amended.)   The network interface unit of claim 6 wherein said

2   information related to connections to said <u>at least one</u> non-secure network comprises

3   information relating to at least one point-to-point over Ethernet (PPPoE) connection.

1   14. (Original) The network interface unit of claim 2 wherein said memory

2   comprises a removable memory module.

1   15. (Original) The network interface unit of claim 14 wherein said removable

2   memory module stores additional information comprising web pages for presentation by

3   said GUI server.

1   16. (Original) The network interface unit of claim 1 wherein said means for

2   authenticating comprises means for comparing client ID and password information

3   received from a client device with information stored at said network interface unit.

1   17. (Currently amended.)   A network interface unit for communicating data

2   packets over a̶ <u>at least one</u> non-secure network between client devices on at least one

3   local area network (LAN) and at least one a̶c̶c̶e̶s̶s̶ ̶n̶o̶d̶e̶ <u>security portal</u> of a secure virtual

4   private network (VPN) comprising

5   means for receiving data packets from said client devices b̶y̶ ̶w̶a̶y̶ ̶o̶f̶ <u>on</u> said <u>at</u>

6   <u>least one LAN</u> L̶A̶N̶s̶,

7   means for multiplexing said data packets into at least one packet data stream <u>for</u>

8   <u>delivery to said at least one non-secure network</u>,

9   a security server for modifying said packet data streams in accordance with a

10   secure communications protocol by encrypting packets in said data streams and

11   encapsulating resulting encrypted packets,

12   a DNS server for providing network destination address information for at least

13   selected ones of said data streams.

1   18. (Original) The network interface unit of claim 17 wherein said security server

2   comprises an IPsec server.

1   19. (Currently amended.)   The network interface unit of claim 17 further

2   comprising

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3   means for receiving at least one stream of data packets from said non-secure

4   network,

5   said security server further comprising a firewall for filtering out packets in said

6   ~~streams~~ at least one stream of received packets that are not from said VPN network,

7   said security server further comprising means for modifying said packets in said

8   at least one stream of received packets by decrypting said packets in said at least one

9   received data stream and decapsulating resulting decrypted packets, thereby providing at

10   least one received data stream of decapsulated, decrypted packets, and

11   means for demultiplexing said at least one ~~stream of received data packets~~

12   received data stream of decapsulated, decrypted packets to form at least one

13   demultiplexed stream of data packets for delivery to said at least one LAN.

1   20. (Original) The network interface unit of claim 19 further comprising means

2   for authenticating client devices on said at least one LAN, and wherein packets from

3   authenticated client devices on said at least one LAN that are received at said network

4   interface device are processed as packets received from said VPN.